

# Heads & Tails

hearingimpaired.net  
MrPAWS by Snow

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We are dedicated to hearing loss and service dog info



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## Hearing aids might help dementia patients

increase memory, reduce anxiety and increase social interaction among dementia patients, local health experts say. "Whether you have dementia or not, you need to hear," said Ronna Fisher, audiologist and founder and president of Hearing Health Center in Chicago and three suburbs. "It's not normal not to hear. Hearing is what makes us happy in our relationships. If you can't hear, you stop talking." Improved sensory perception won't stop the progression of dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease, experts said, but increasing the ability to hear will help reduce a patient's loneliness and confusion.

The staff at Smith Village, a continuing-care retirement community in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, said it has noticed increased participation among residents who address their hearing problems. "Getting hearing aids does help them," said Diane Morgan, memory support coordinator.

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## New News



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### Did You Know ~ ~

A dog's whiskers are receptors giving the dog information about the surface he is approaching like an early warning device. Trimming them makes a dog very uncomfortable and stressed.

## New Products

### Coming Soon

Solar Ear charger and batteries to save expenses on hearing aids

## Upcoming Events

### 2012

Mar 3

MATA Expo  
Phoenix, AZ  
Phx Civic Plaza

April 25-26

NM Comm for D/HOH  
Conference on Hearing Loss  
Albuquerque, NM

**For more info:**  
[www.cdhh.state.nm.us/COHL/2012.aspx](http://www.cdhh.state.nm.us/COHL/2012.aspx)

[www.hearingimpaired.net](http://www.hearingimpaired.net)  
[www.mrpaws.com](http://www.mrpaws.com)  
480.837.0190

**NEW**

## CLASSIFIEDS



### FOR SALE:

**LEATHER COLLAR & LEASH:** says "Service Dog" - but not our style. Selling at cost: \$30 each. A bit of a western look. If interested, write and ask for picture to sales@mrpaws.com. This was a trial and error for our newest product.

**DOG TRAINING EQUIPMENT:** Seven pieces of K9 training equipment used for a photo shoot, then sat on shelf in office for a couple of years. This is top grade equipment, without one scratch on it. Bite suit.

All seven pieces for a total of \$950.00 plus \$50.00 for shipping. These items cost close to \$3000.00 when they were purchased for photo shoot. Contact sales@mrpaws.com for photos—or <http://phoenix.craigslist.org/evl/bfs/2487747253.html>



## Dog Training Tips

by

Stacey Larsen

Puppy Prep School, LLC

### To Neuter or Not To Neuter

If you are conflicted over spay or neuter your dog you must be aware of the consequences of not doing this procedure.

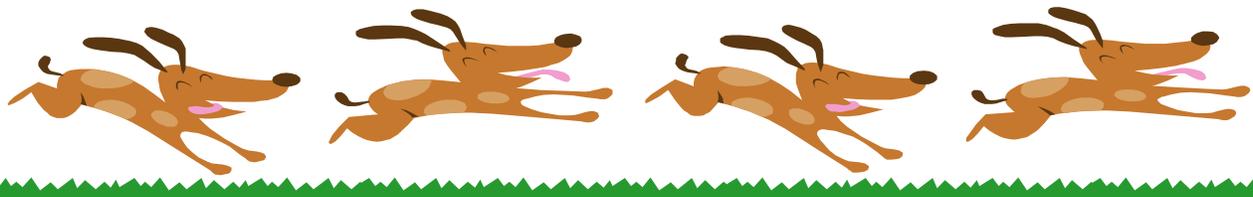
Male dogs should be neutered by the age of 2 or 3 years. The consequences are prostate cancer—not pleasant. In addition, the males tend to "mark" their territory, and "hump" the guests. Not good manners.

Female dogs are also prone to cancer if not spayed. In addition, it will eliminate her heat cycle and you won't get blood on your furniture or attract unwanted male dogs to your home.

Dogs that are not "fixed" often have more behavior and temperament problems.

Tailwags,  
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## What Types of Service Dogs are There?

- ◆ Asthma
- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ Emotional Support
- ◆ Hearing
- ◆ Medical Assist
- ◆ Mobility
- ◆ Scent Detection
- ◆ Seeing Eye Guide
- ◆ Seizure

All of the above specialties are very important to their companion partners and often provide their persons with the ability to leave their homes with confidence.

While Therapy Dogs are NOT service dogs, their contribution is not to be minimized. A Therapy Dog visits hospitals and nursing homes, and sometimes schools to give aid and comfort to people in emotional pain and distress or grieving. They do not have the same legal rights as a Service Dog that is allowed anywhere a human is permitted to go. A therapy dog's primary job is to allow unfamiliar people to make physical contact with him and to enjoy that contact. Children in particular enjoy hugging animals; adults usually enjoy simply petting the dog.

The dog might need to be lifted onto, or climb onto, an invalid's lap or bed and sit or lie comfortably there. Many dogs add to the visiting experience by performing small tricks for their audiences or by playing carefully structured games.

**A dog that is therapeutic to its disabled handler is a Service Dog not a therapy dog.** Therapy Dog refers to a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, mental institutions, schools, and stressful situations such as disaster areas.



**NEW**

**Solar Ears \$52.95**

- ◆ Solar charged hearing aids reduces the need to purchase and repurchase and purchase again the batteries needed
- ◆ Holds charge for a week
- ◆ Takes 6-8 hrs to charge



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When their hearing is down, they experience paranoia or anxiety because they can't hear what's being said to them." Fisher, whose father suffered hearing loss at an early age, said she began noticing in 2008 that when her dementia patients were fitted with hearing aids — especially deep-insert hearing devices that remain in the ear for three months at a time — they socialized more and their memories improved.

In a study released this year, researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine and the National Institute on Aging found that seniors suffering from hearing loss were more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. Among other things, the research suggests that hearing loss could lead to social isolation, a risk factor for dementia.

The research should offer hope to physicians treating dementia patients, said Dr. Marsel Mesulam, director of the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern's medical school. "Doctors and health care providers treating elderly patients should not throw up their hands treating dementia," Mesulam said. "They can look at other factors that are treatable, like hearing loss or vision." Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, a term used to describe the common symptoms of memory loss and declining cognitive abilities that interfere with daily life, according to the Alzheimer's Association. The disease accounts for 50 to 80 percent of dementia cases. Other causes of dementia include brain injuries, infections and tumors, and vascular, Parkinson's and other diseases that affect neurological function. Nancy Rainwater, a spokeswoman for the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, said that at the very least, a person's hearing loss might cause caregivers to assume there is dementia when there is not. "Each patient is different," Rainwater said. "Get a formal diagnosis." Naperville resident Debby Berger began taking her 86-year-old mother to Hearing Health Center last year. At the time, her mother's memory had declined. Since she has been fitted with deep-insert hearing devices, her memory has improved. "Now that she can hear, if you tell her something, she remembers it," Berger said.

By Malcolm Garcia, Chicago Tribune 9/20/11  
From [www.NVRC.com](http://www.NVRC.com)

